entertained by his elder comrades. No women are permitted to wit- 881
ness this event. After this recognition the young man is free to court the local girls and participate in the events reserved for grown men.

Before her marriage, the Magyar girl customarily lives chastely, 831
and her virginity is believed to give her magic powers which are em-
ployed in several superstitious practices. Many customs and especial- 593
ly the terminology connected with marriage go back to the period of Magyar life when rape or bride-purchase was common. The girl of marriageable age is still today referred to as the 'girl for sale' (eladó lány), and the root vesz 'to take, to buy' also denotes 'to marry.' Among the marriage customs, the church or the civil wedding 585
is only part of the entire ceremonial. The most significant popular ceremony features the solemn knotting of the bride's hair and the placing of the fokōtō, the shawl covering the head, by the women of the family she is about to enter. The marriage ceremonies, of course, feature the wedding feast with village-wide rejoicing. The ceremonial slaughter of domestic animals (a cockerel with the Palóc) for this feast is reminiscent of former animal sacrifices.

The mother delivers her child lying either in bed or, in some 000